

IDAHO ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING

Thursday – May 15, 2008 – 9:00 A.M.

Division of Building Safety
Red Lion Hotel
1555 Pocatello Creek Road, Pocatello, ID

NOTE: The following report is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the discussions at the meeting, but is intended to record the significant features of those discussions.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Brown at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 15, 2008.

Board Members Present:

Tom Brown, Chairman
Mark LaBolle
Tim Phillips
Lee Riley
Bob Scott
Al Frieze
Jeff Wheeler

DBS Staff Members:

C. Kelly Pearce, Administrator
Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator, Operations
Kirk Weiskircher, Financial Specialist, Principal
Jeff Fitzloff, Electrical Bureau Chief
Roger Gabel, Deputy Attorney General
Renee Bryant, Administrative Assistant 2

Board Members Absent:

Kreg Davis
Troy Mortensen

♦ **Open Forum**

The “Open Forum” is an opportunity for the audience to address issues/concerns not on the agenda.

Agendas and board packets can be accessed through the Division’s website at dbs.idaho.gov/boards.

To assist the industry in navigating through the Division’s website, an article titled, “Navigating the DBS Web Site” has been published in the May 2008 Building Safety News newsletter

David Chamberlain, Signature Signs, questioned the Division’s procedures in issuing citations to sign companies installing electric signs without a specialty Electrical Contractors license.

The Division cannot pursue legal measures until a DBS employee observes a non-licensed electrician physically installing electrical signs or a formal complaint is filed by a citizen. A Citizen Complaint form can be found on the division’s website at dbs.idaho.gov/electrical.

ACTION: For the July 29, 2008 meeting, Jeff Fitzloff to research the statute and laws on the legality of installing signs without a license.

♦ **Approval of the May 15, 2008 Agenda**

MOTION: Al Frieze moved to approve the Agenda. Bob Scott seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

♦ **Approval of the February 21, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes**

Bob Scott noted a correction on page one under “Board Members Present”. Troy Mortensen’s name to replace Dale Pippitt’s name as Mr. Mortensen is Mr. Pippitt’s successor on the Board and was present for the meeting.

MOTION: Lee Riley made a motion to accept the February 21, 2008 minutes with corrections. Tim Phillips seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Financial Report**

Kirk Weiskircher reviewed the newly formatted Financial Report and graphs.

The Division, with the Board's approval, would like to initiate the raise program, as decreed by the Governor, one month prior to the implementation date of July 1.

With the economy in a recession, the Division is working to curtail expenditures. Several ways are: Reduce travel costs, leave positions vacant, purchase fuel efficient hybrid vehicles, lower communication costs and rent.

MOTION: Tim Phillips made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Mark LaBolle seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

◆ **Request for Administrative Appeals Hearing**

Camp Cabin & Homes, Inc. – NOV ELE-663 – This appeal was resolved prior to the meeting. The Division reduced the citation to a warning and refunded their money.

T L Electric, Inc. – NOV ELE-714 – There were no T L Electric, Inc. representatives present for their scheduled appeals hearing; therefore, abandoning the appeal. Deputy Attorney General Roger Gabel's recommendation to the Board was for him to draft a letter to T L Electric, Inc. stating their appeal was abandoned and the penalty stood as issued.

MOTION: Lee Riley made a motion to abandon the appeal. Bob Scott seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Kevin Torgrimson, Torgrimson Electric, presented his viewpoint in allowing a journeyman electrician to work, as well as represent himself, as an Electrical Contractor using Mr. Torgrimson's Electrical permit. The Board severely warned, as well as encouraged Mr. Torgrimson to comply with the Idaho State Electrical Laws.

◆ **Specialty Machine Installers License**

Jim West, Clearwater Equipment, requested a specialty license to install trash compactors, cardboard bailers and dock levelers. Prior to the scheduled teleconference, Mr. West was informed that he is eligible to apply for an Electrical Manufacturing/Assembling Specialty License.

◆ **Specialty Sign Electricians (Proposed Rule)**

Prior to the meeting, the Division received written documentation from sign company representatives supporting the proposed rule which would allow licensed Electrical Sign Contractors to service and repair parking lot lighting.

A lengthy discussion between the Board and members of the audience ensued. Andy Havice, Young Electric Sign Company, gave testimony in support of the proposed rulemaking, while a clear majority of the audience testifying on the subject expressed opposition.

MOTION: Mark LaBolle made a motion to leave the specialty sign verbiage as is. Lee Riley seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

♦ **Advertising (Proposed Rule)**

Jeff Fitzloff read the proposed rule defining advertising. For clarity and consistency, Roger Gabel suggested several changes to the verbiage of the proposed rule.

ACTION: For the July 29th Post Falls meeting, Jeff Fitzloff, with the Division's DAG, to rewrite the draft rule; tying the new "advertising" verbiage with the current verbiage.

♦ **Apprentice Registration Fee**

A proposed rule to increase the apprentice registration fee from \$10.00 to \$35.00 per year was presented. This fee increase would cover the Division's processing costs.

A five year/\$50.00 apprentice registration fee was addressed. Many apprentices fail to renew in a timely manner, resulting in losing credit for hours worked while their registration is expired. The five-year time period should be sufficient for most apprentices to complete their training, without losing registration time or credit for hours worked, and transition to journeymen.

MOTION: Al Frieze made a motion to instruct staff to pursue the \$35.00 yearly apprentice registration fee through the normal rulemaking process. Tim Phillips seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

ACTION: At the July 29th Board meeting the Bureau to present a draft rule proposing a five year/\$50.00 apprentice registration fee.

♦ **Apprentice Competency Exams**

Mark LaBolle suggested using one first-year class from one institution (voluntary basis), create a written exam with in-house resources and evaluate to see if there is value in broadening the program.

ACTION: The Subcommittee to meet with Al Caine to discuss options/costs to pilot a program involving one class from one institution; bringing information to the July 29th meeting.

♦ **Changing Journeyman Exam Requirements**

Educational providers feel the closer the assessment is to the training; the greater the success rate is for the participant taking the written exam. The Board is encouraged to allow apprentices, completing their fourth year, to immediately test rather than wait until the required 8,000 hours are accrued. Upon the passing of the exam and the accrual of the 8,000 hours, apprentices would be eligible for their journeyman license.

ACTION: For the July 29th Board packet, the Board requested training providers (PTE, NNU, TVCC, BSU and Unions) provide written statistics (percentage of student population unequipped to test immediately after completion of 4th-year and the average hours, based off of 8,000, lacking to test) to the Division.

♦ **Schooling (Update)**

The technical colleges completed their first year using the NCCER curriculum. New textbooks are being reviewed. A draft electrical apprentice placement procedure has been reviewed and approved by the colleges. This procedure will be used for advanced placement in the fall.

◆ **Permit Fee Changes**

A new fee schedule rule, promulgated by the Division, was approved by the legislature. The effective date is July 1, 2008.

Residential new construction will be based on square footage, the fee will change to an hourly charge of \$65.00 and the commercial/industrial fees will be lowered. The industry will be notified of the changes; with information included in the Division's newsletter.

◆ **Electronic Communications Systems (Update)**

No new information brought to the Board.

◆ **CEU Requirements**

The Board was unaware that requirements for continuing education had changed from 16 to 24 hours of instruction. In 2000, Journeymen and Master Electricians were required to complete at least 16 hours (eight code and eight industrial). However, in 2002 at least 24 hours (minimum 16 code) were required, with no mention of industrial code.

ACTION: The Division to gather additional data, tying in with reciprocal licensing and bringing it back to the July 29th meeting.

David Burke, Jade Learning, requested the Division review material on the 2008 NEC changes for consideration of a CEU course. The course would be two-parts, two editions on each part, 160 sections (graphics/commentary) in code order of primary changes with scrambled questions separate from graphics/commentary.

◆ **Bureau Chief's Report**

Jeff Fitzloff gave a synopsis of his career; as well as reviewed the ICC's Exam Summary, Journeyman First Exam Attempt and Notice of Violations/Civil Penalty Reports.

◆ **Legislative Report**

House Bill 475, revising the requirements for an Apprentice Electrician to take the Journeyman's exam, was not passed by the legislature. At the 2009 session, the Division to resubmit the proposal; as well as present an alternative proposal to increase the single year apprentice registration fee.

For the 2009 Legislative Session, the Division is considering inviting the House Rules Committee to hold their initial rules hearing at the Division's Meridian office. Board Members welcome.

ACTION: The Division to create an "alert" system to inform Board Members of the dates/times of critical issues being addressed/reviewed in legislative committees.

◆ **Administrator's Report**

Deputy Attorney General (DAG) – Kelly Pearce gave a synopsis of Patrick J. Grace's background; the new DAG for the Division.

Softball Tournament – The Division hosted a first annual State Employee Co-Ed Softball Tournament. Sixteen state agencies participated in the one-day event.

Zero Based Budgeting – The basis of Zero Based Budgeting was explained. The Agency will move forward in this budgeting format.

Agency Documents – The Agency has reduced multiple documents to single two-sided documents; saving time and money. Documents reduced to one page are: Plan review applications, inspection stickers, modular building permits and Electrical/HVAC/Plumbing permits.

Economy - The current economic recession and the effect it has or will have on the Division and local municipalities was addressed.

Plan Review – A “Virtual Reality” office has been created by the State Fire Marshal’s, wherein they electronically review and transmit their comments to DBS. In turn, the agency’s comments and the State Fire Marshal’s comments to be consolidated into one plan review report for contractors/architects.

CAS – A Plan Review section will allow the Agency to receive/set-up blue prints, make changes and transmit to the recipient without destroying the integrity of the paper product. The architect can make their revisions; returning them electronically. The Division will be able to overlay both forms to confirm changes have been made and/or no new problems have been created.

♦ **New/Old Business**

Travel – Tom Brown suggested the Electrical, HVAC and Plumbing Board’s coordinate their Northern and Eastern Idaho meetings.

Chairman Meeting

ACTION: The Agency to coordinate a meeting between the Electrical, HVAC and Plumbing Chairmen to discuss common topics/issues.

Agendas – Board/industry encouraged to submit topic(s) to Chairman several weeks prior to future meetings. The timeframe for creating/mailling packets was clarified. Agendas are posted on the Division’s website.

Newsletter – A detailed description on how to utilize the DBS website is in the current issue.

ACTION: The Division’s PIO to research/confirm Master Electrician’s are included in the mail outs.

MOTION: Mark LaBolle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:14 p.m. Lee Riley seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

TOM BROWN, CHAIRMAN
ELECTRICAL BOARD

C. KELLY PEARCE, ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

DATE

DATE